transplantation but rather gives a somewhat patchy review of a number of experimental works done in this field.

Overall, this book is put together well. It would serve as a good reference book for those of us who are interested in the biologic roles of nitric oxide. In each chapter, the author(s) provides a review of the respective topic, emphasizing his or her own work in the area, but also comparing it to that of others. There is good information on the chemistry and biochemistry of nitric oxide. This book, however, has probably been in the making for some time, and unfortunately, the references do not generally go beyond 1994. Furthermore, as often happens with multiauthored texts, overlap occurs between chapters, particularly on the historical aspects and the biochemistry of nitric oxide. The editor, however, has succeeded to a large degree in limiting the overlaps to present a cohesive text progression. Although most chapters in the book are well written and organized, some were less well structured. A minor editing point that was overseen and may confuse the inattentive (particularly because there are many similar though distinct nitric oxide byproducts) is the different abbreviations/acronyms used for nitric oxide from one chapter to the other.

All in all, this a good reference book on the biochemistry of nitric oxide. This book would be useful for those of us who want to acquire (or review) in-depth knowledge of the basic and complex biochemistry of nitric oxide. Those of us (practicing surgeons and scientists) who wish for an overview of the biologic roles of nitric oxide would go directly to chapters 3, 5, and 6 (perhaps some to 7) and skip the rest. However, for the busy community or academic vascular surgeon, the purchase of this book would likely be disappointing because it does not offer much on the vascular biology of nitric oxide.

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Vascular surgery: A comprehensive review, 5th edition

Wesley Moore; Philadelphia; 1998; W. B. Saunders; 903 pages; $179.

Previous editions of this textbook have become a standard review source for vascular surgeons who are studying for the qualifying examination or seeking recertification in vascular surgery. This book is popular because the chapter titles have been carefully selected and limited in number so as to concentrate on the most important topics in vascular surgery. Because each chapter covers a fairly circumscribed area, repetition and omission between chapters, which is common to most multiauthored texts, have been kept to a minimum. Each chapter is authored or coauthored by an acknowledged expert. Readers who are using the book for review purposes can test their knowledge with 10 or more review questions at the end of each chapter. New editions have been published about every 3 years to keep pace with the rapid evolution of vascular surgical knowledge.

It has been 5 years since publication of the 4th edition, and on the basis of previous experience the reader might expect a substantially revised and updated version. Unfortunately, this is not the case. The fifth edition contains 45 chapters, 28 of which are very little changed from the last edition. Although the information contained in chapters such as the history of vascular surgery or embryology does not require updating, certainly enough has happened in the last 5 years to justify substantial revision of chapters dealing with aortoiliac disease, extracranial arterial occlusive disease, prosthetic graft infections, and a number of others. In retrospect, it was probably an unrealistic goal for the editor to hope that busy individual chapter authors would be able to devote the time necessary to revise and update their contribution every 3 years.

In each previous edition, new chapters have been added that reflected the expansion of vascular knowledge. There are two new chapters in the fifth edition: one on endovascular grafting and one on lymphatic imaging. However, the reader wonders why the information about endovascular grafting could not have been incorporated in the previous endovascular surgery chapter, or why a whole new chapter has been devoted to lymphatic imaging, when a diagnostic technique as valuable as duplex ultrasound received only a few pages. Four other chapters have been effectively rewritten by new authors: diabetic vascular disease, vascular grafts, visceral ischemic syndromes, and pathogenesis of atherosclerosis. Each of the new chapters is clinically relevant and current, suggesting that the next edition might be enhanced by the addition of more new authors.

Despite the similarity between the last two editions, this is still a very worthwhile reference for vascular surgeons, surgical residents, and medical students, because of its authoritative authorship, manageable size, and the study questions that accompany each chapter.

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Receptor signal transduction protocols

R. A. J. Challiss; Totowa, N.J.; 1997; Humana Press; 275 pages; $99.50.

The mechanisms by which extracellular signals are transduced within the cell to elicit a response is at the center of the most basic science research. Cellular signal transduction is evoked under many conditions, and in almost all cell types, as means of responding to the extracellular environment. Some cells contract when a specific ligand binds to a receptor, whereas others are induced to become mobile and undergo chemotaxis or to secrete a particular substance. In any case, understanding the process of signal transduction and the steps from receptor to effector is at the heart of the most fundamental studies, both physiologic and pathologic.